

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Megan Is Missing

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1100934.000

Medium: DVD

Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Director: Michael Goi

Producer: Mark Gragnani

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Film & Video Labelling Body

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 12 October 2011

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

	Components	Running time
Menu:	Play Set Up Scene Selection Special Features	
Feature(s):	Megan Is Missing	85:26
Timed component(s):	The Making Of Megan Is Missing Deleted Scene Marc Klaas Statement	6:26 0:33 5:03

	Megan Is Missing (Trailer)	1:33
	Notices	0:22
Total running time:		99:23

Summary of reasons for decision:

The DVD Megan Is Missing is classified as objectionable. The feature depicts sexual violence and sexual conduct involving young people to such an extent and degree, and in such a manner, that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good.

Megan Is Missing is a DVD containing a United States horror feature, a behind-the-scenes segment, a face-to-camera interview, a trailer for the feature and notices. The feature, Megan Is Missing, is comprised of faux “found footage” (mobile phone, hand-held video camera, television news reports and internet chatroom footage) and follows about eight weeks in the lives of two girls aged 13 and 14 years which culminates in their abduction and murder by an online predator. Although an attempt has been made to present the material in the context of a cautionary tale, and there is additional interview footage that puts forward the notion that the feature could raise awareness of the vulnerability of teenage girls to sexual predators, the feature’s material is strongly prurient and exploitative. The film relishes the spectacle of one girl's ordeal including a 3 minute real time rape scene. The feature also sexualises the lives of these young teenage girls to a highly exploitative degree. The DVD is therefore classified as objectionable.

The classification of objectionable interferes with freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but this is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression. It reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that deal with sexual violence and sexual conduct involving young persons in this manner. This is the minimum restriction that can be applied to prevent injury to the public good, as excisions would not be practical.